

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**Claims 1 and 5-8 have been amended as follows:**

Claim 1. (Amended) A method for separating and collecting nucleic acids, which comprises:

~~a step of bringing~~ a sample nucleic acid solution into contact with a nucleic acid-immobilized substrate comprising a substrate and ~~two or more kinds of~~ single-stranded nucleic acids having different nucleotide sequences, said single-stranded nucleic acids being each separately immobilized on the substrate, whereby immobilized portions of the immobilized nucleic acids are provided on the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate, to allow hybridization of the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids and single-stranded nucleic acids complementary to the immobilized single-stranded nucleic acids and contained in the sample nucleic acid solution, and

~~a step of separating the hybridized single-stranded nucleic acids according to on~~ the immobilized portions of the immobilized nucleic acids from the substrate, to ~~collect thereby~~ collecting the hybridized single-stranded nucleic acids without disassembling the nucleic acid-immobilized substrate,

wherein the hybridized single-stranded nucleic acids are separated by a means selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) rubbing off the immobilized portions;
- (2) shaving off the immobilized portions; and
- (3) applying an electric potential difference across the immobilized portions.

Claim 5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate has a plate-like shape.

Claim 6. (Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the substrate has a plate-like shape.

Claim 7. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the substrate has a plate-like shape.

Claim 8. (Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the substrate has a plate-like shape.